

U.S. Department of Education Approves Education Stimulus Funds, Eligible to Apply for Additional \$335.5 Million this Fall

WASHINGTON - U. S. Rep. Harry Mitchell today announced that the Department of Education has made more than \$681 million available for Arizona under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, also known as the Stimulus. This funding will help save jobs for thousands of Arizona teachers that were at risk due to state and local budget cuts.

"As a former teacher, I understand that investments in education are critical to our future," Mitchell said. "While the Arizona legislature continues to propose education cuts to balance their budget, this funding helps to show our commitment to our teachers and students - that their future matters. A strong education translates into a more prepared, competitive workforce and a sustainable economic future."

Today's funding announcement is being made available per Arizona's successful completion of part one of the ARRA State Stabilization Application, which was made available on April 1st. Additionally, Arizona will be eligible to apply for another \$335.5 million this fall.

According to the Department of Education, Arizona to date has received \$209 million in education stimulus funds-representing a combination of funding for Title I, IDEA, Vocational Rehabilitation Grants, Independent Living Grants and Impact Aid.

On April 1, Arizona received \$97.5 million in Title I funding and more than \$97 million in IDEA funding. This represents 50 percent of the Title I and IDEA funding Arizona is eligible for in total. On April 1, Arizona also received \$6.5 million in Vocational Rehab funds and more than \$1 million in Independent Living funds. On April 10, Arizona received more than \$7 million in Impact Aid funding.

In order to receive today's funds, the State of Arizona provided assurances that it will collect, publish, analyze and act on basic information regarding the quality of classroom teachers, annual student improvements, college readiness, the effectiveness of state standards and assessments, progress on removing charter caps and interventions in turning around underperforming schools.

See Arizona and other state applications for initial funding under the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund Program at

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/statestabilization/resources.html>